

CLAIMS:

Sub a1

1. An interactive audiovisual distribution system comprising:

A. a distribution center having:

a. a library of stored audiovisual programs;

b. an order processing computer connected to a plurality of subscriber stations for handling requests for delivery of selected segments of said audiovisual programs from said plurality of subscriber stations, said order processing computer being coupled to a plurality of transmission control processing units for allocating servicing of said requests to said transmission control processing unit; and

c. each of said transmission control processing units having:

a transmission control processor for receiving commands from said order processing computer and for handling the distribution of said requested selected program segments;

a memory for storing audiovisual programs including said requested selected program segments; and

an interface for coordinating transfer of said requested program segments to subscriber stations corresponding to said requests; and

B. each of said subscriber stations including:

a receiver for receiving said requested program segments from said distribution center;

a terminal processor having associated memory input device and display for generating said requests for delivery of selected segments of said audiovisual programs from said distribution center and for coordinating transfer of said program segments delivered from said distribution center; and

a video processor for decompressing said program segments in compressed video format.